Subject: Comments Regarding GN Docket No. 25-133 - Streamlining Amateur Radio Licensing

To the Federal Communications Commission,

I am writing to submit comments in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in GN Docket No. 25-133, aimed at eliminating outdated and burdensome regulations. I propose a significant simplification of the amateur radio licensing structure.

Proposal:

I respectfully request the following changes to the amateur radio licensing process:

1. Consolidation of Licenses:
    - Eliminate the current tiered licensing system (Technician, General, Amateur Extra) and consolidate all amateur radio privileges into a single, comprehensive "Amateur Radio Operator" license.
    - Grandfathering Clause: All currently licensed amateur radio operators, regardless of their existing license tier, shall be automatically grandfathered into the new "Amateur Radio Operator" license.
2. Removal of Testing Requirement:
    - Remove the requirement for written examinations for new applicants.
    - Instead, implement a mandatory online review of the current FCC Part 97 rules, including band allocations, frequency restrictions, and power limitations.
    - Require new applicants to acknowledge they have reviewed and understand the rules.
3. Lifetime License and Single Fee:
    - Establish a one-time, lifetime license fee for new applicants, significantly simplifying the administrative process for both the FCC and amateur radio operators.
4. Privacy Protection:
    - Remove the public display of amateur radio operator's residential addresses from the FCC's online database.
    - Maintain a secure, non-public database for FCC administrative purposes.
    - This is a privacy matter, and amateur radio operators should not have their private addresses published, unlike commercial operators.

Justification:

- **Public Service and Emergency Preparedness:** Simplifying amateur radio licensing will significantly increase the number of licensed operators, thereby enhancing public service capabilities during emergencies. Amateur radio provides vital communication when

traditional infrastructure fails, such as during natural disasters. This change will enable more citizens to volunteer their skills during these critical times.

- **Simplification and Efficiency:** Consolidating licenses and eliminating testing for new applicants will streamline the licensing process, reducing administrative burdens for the FCC and making amateur radio more accessible to a wider audience.
- **Respect for Existing Licensees:** Grandfathering existing licensees ensures that those who have already invested time and effort in obtaining their licenses are not penalized by the proposed changes.
- **Self-Regulation:** Amateur radio has a long history of self-regulation. By requiring new applicants to review the rules, the FCC can ensure a basic level of understanding while empowering operators to take responsibility for their actions.
- **Privacy Concerns:** In an era of heightened privacy awareness, publishing residential addresses poses a security risk to amateur radio operators. Commercial operators have a need for their business address to be published, but amateur radio is a hobby, and should be treated as such.
- **Reduced Costs:** A single, lifetime fee for new applicants will eliminate the need for periodic renewals, reducing costs for both the FCC and amateur radio operators.
- **Modernization:** Modern technology allows for efficient online rule review and fee payment, making the current testing and renewal process outdated for new applicants.

I believe these proposed changes will modernize and simplify amateur radio licensing, promoting the hobby while ensuring responsible operation and significantly increasing the public service benefits of amateur radio. I urge the FCC to consider these comments in its deliberations.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Jacobs Jr.